

I think it is a grave mistake to encourage greater and greater consolidation of media ownership. I used to be a DJ at a college radio station back when the radio landscape in this country was much different from what it is today, and I believe lifting restrictions on media ownership is what caused the downfall of radio in the U.S. in the last 15 years or so.

When one company owns a greater and greater portion of the media outlets, they become less regionally distinct, and fail to serve the members of their particular local community in any meaningful way. Good quality, groundbreaking music gets harder and harder to find, and the scope of expressed ideas becomes smaller and smaller.

In a capitalistic society, who are we to let our media become the way it might be in a state-run situation, where it is owned by only one monopoly-the government? In such a situation, there is no "competition of ideas" - those on the receiving end of broadcasts are not allowed the luxury of making their own decisions based on an adequate explanation of both sides to any issue. Instead they are effectively told what to believe. Reducing the amount of companies that can own media outlets is effectively shutting out points of view, will leave citizens less informed and therefore, with less control over their own elected government. We will not be a democracy in the true sense if we are force-fed only one point of view. We need to ensure competition in the media marketplace by as many firms and voices and points of view as possible. Diversity is our strength.